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Urban District Council of Newbiggin by the Sea

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1966



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To the Chairman and Members of Newbiggin-by-Sea Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1966.

The total number of live births was 138, a decrease of 3 on the previous year and the total number of deaths was 113, an increase of six, as compared with 1965, owing to the fact that, although male deaths declined by 11, female deaths increased by 17 to 54, of whom 25 were over the age of 75 years.

The birth rate, therefore, fell slightly to 14.05 per 1,000 of the population and the death-rate rose from 13.62 to 14.23 per 1,000. The corresponding rates for England and Wales were 17.7 and 11.7 per 1,000, respectively.

The infant mortality rate was 21.74 per 1,000 live births compared with a rate of 14.18 in 1965 but little significance should be attached to this as the total numbers involved are very small;- 2 infant deaths in 1965 and 3 in 1966. The corresponding rate for the country as a whole was 19.0.

The still-birth rate remained very low at 7.19 per 1,000 live and still births compared with a national rate of 15.4.

The death-rate from malignant neoplasms of the lung and bronchus remained unchanged and the death rate from malignant neoplasms of other sites was slightly lower than in the previous year.

One of the main events of the year was the decision to clear North Seaton Colliery and make the site available for industrial development. This is a large undertaking involving as it does, the re-housing of some 328 families in new modern dwellings on a new site.

I should like to express my appreciation of the good work done by the Public Health Inspector throughout the year and my thanks to other departments of the Council for their co-operation and to the members of the Council for their interest in the work of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
C.B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Newbiggin-by-Sea.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The mid-1966 population of the Urban District was estimated by the Registrar-General as being 9,920, an increase of 20 on the previous year.

The majority of the male working population are employed in the coal-mining industry and anxiety about future employment was increased in 1966 by the disastrous fire which caused the closure for an indefinite period of the colliery at Lynemouth where many Newbiggin residents were employed.

The Council was very active throughout the year in considering this problem and attempting to find means of attracting new industries to the district. It was realised that a site or sites suitable for industrial re-development would be essential and much thought and effort went into finding a suitable area. After consultation with various organisations and specialists it was decided that the most appropriate and promising area for the purpose would be at North Seaton Colliery where most of the houses were seriously sub-standard and were, in any case, due for demolition.

The Council, therefore, decided to acquire sufficient land to provide re-housing for the inhabitants of the village and declared four Clearance Areas involving 330 houses. The only houses excluded from the areas were those in Links View, Wansbeck Street and Sea View.

It is to be hoped that the Government's decision to consider the district as part of a development area will improve the prospects of success in providing new employment and preventing the movement of population away from the area.

Area in Acres	1,841
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	
mid-1966	9,920
Rateable Value	£205,730
One Penny Rate Produces	£800
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1966)	3,264
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	1,428

VITAL STATISTICS.

(figures for England and Wales are in brackets)

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	130	70	60
Illegitimate	8	3	5
	<u>138</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>65</u>

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 13.91
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor
1.01) .. 14.05 (17.7)

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-
Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still) births		7.19	(15.4)

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
113	59	54

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 11.39
Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 1.25 x Crude Death
Rate) 14.23 (11.7)
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-
General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) Nil (0.26)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	3	-

All infants per 1,000 live births 21.74 (19.0)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 23.08
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	3	-

Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks of age per
1,000 live births) 21.74 (12.9)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	2	-

Early Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000
live births) 14.49 (11.1)
Perinatal Death Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week
per 1,000 total (live and still) births) 21.58 (26.3)

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1966.

	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 - 12 months	Total under 1 year.
Prematurity	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Haemorrhagic Disease of the Newborn.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3

The Registrar-General supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH 1966.

						<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...		-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, (other forms)	.	...	...		-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	..	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...		-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..				-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	.	...	...		2	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.	...			2	-
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	..	...	...		-	-
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	..	...	...		-	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	.				4	6
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...		-	-
16.	Diabetes	.	...	...	...	-	2
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	.	...			6	8
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	...	...	...		13	8
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...			2	1
20.	Other Heart Diseases	..	...	...	...	13	14
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	..	...	...		1	3
22.	Influenza	.	...	...	...	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	.	...	...	...	1	2
24.	Bronchitis	.	...	...	...	5	-
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	.				1	-
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...			-	-
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...				-	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...		1	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...		-	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...			-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...		1	-
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	..				6	3
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...		1	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	-	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	-	1
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...			-	-
						59	54

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEWBIGGIN-BY-SEA

Disease	Total Number	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	55	48.67
Malignant Neoplasms	17	15.04
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	14	12.4
Total	86	76.11

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:

Specimens sent by	Specimen	Pos	Neg
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	-	12
General Practitioner	" " "	1	-
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Sputum for M. Tuberculosis	2	-
There was one sensitivity test carried out.			

Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by Northumberland County Council ambulances based on the Station at West View, Ashington, where 16 drivers are employed, working three shifts and giving a 24-hour service.

All ambulances are fitted with radio and can be controlled from a central Control at Wideopen.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

Northumberland County Council is the authority responsible for these services and clinics are held at Jubilee Terrace, Newbiggin and at 18, High Double Row, North Seaton Colliery.

Home Help Service.

This service, too, is provided by Northumberland County Council. The vast majority of the patients who receive this help are pensioners most of whom are very appreciative, and their numbers have steadily increased over the years. It appears inevitable that expansion of the service will continue as the number of old people in the community rises.

Chiropody Service for Old People.

This service, also, continues to grow and to be much appreciated. Newbiggin Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committee is responsible for the organisation and financing of the service but is re-imbursed by the County Council.

Meals on Wheels.

The provision of meals for old, infirm people in their own homes continued to be carried out very smoothly under the supervision of the Old People's Welfare Committee, Volunteers, using their own cars, delivered about 12 meals per week and, in addition, 6-8 meals per week, were distributed locally from the Senior Citizens' Club.

The Senior Citizens' Club on the Spital Estate continued to be very active and about 40 meals were cooked by the members themselves twice weekly for members of the Luncheon Club.

As forecast last year, a second Luncheon Club was started in 1966 at the east end of Newbiggin.

This Club meets in the Parish Church Hall once a week and organisation of the Centre and cooking of the meals are in the hands of members of the W.R.V.S. From the time the Club began on 2nd August up to the end of the year, 624 meals were cooked and served.

The hall is always filled to capacity and the Club is proving very successful.

Water Supply.

Tynemouth Corporation is the Water Undertaker and the supply during the year was adequate in quantity and quality. The average consumption was 27 gallons per head per day. All houses are supplied by public mains and approximately 99.8% have the water piped directly into the house.

Samples Taken.

Newbiggin 3 North Seaton Colliery 1

No coliform bacilli were found in any of the four samples.

Sewerage Disposal.

A scheme is now in the course of construction to have the seven houses on the Woodhorn Allotments connected to the main sewerage system and it is hoped to complete this during the coming year.

Public Cleansing.

The service is provided by the Council and there are twice weekly collections. A new dual purpose vehicle has been purchased to assist with the Caravan sites which place an extra burden on the system during the season.

Public Conveniences.

As in previous years vandalism occurred and was the cause of complaints from visitors to the area regarding the condition of the public conveniences.

Rodent and Insect Control.

The following is a summary of the annual return to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food showing visits etc.

	L.A.	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricu- ltural
No. of properties	10	3258	472	9
No. of inspections as a result of:				
a) complaint	-	99	10	-
b) survey	-	2	3	-
c) otherwise	-	-	-	-
No. of infestations	-	101	11	-
No. of properties dealt with by L.A.	-	101	11	-

Rodent Control

A ten per cent test baiting programme of the sewerage system was conducted during the year and then a general baiting undertaken.

Insect Control - Complaints.

Cockroaches 147 Bed Bugs 4
Clover Mite 9

Mosquitoes.

Early treatment of the breeding grounds and regular inspections controlled the insect, and complaints were few.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	12	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A.	11	13	-	-
3. Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by L.A. (excl. Outworkers' premises).	4	-	-	-
Total	27	13	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:				
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-

Caravan Sites.

Newbiggin Moor

An additional toilet block was constructed on the site, and there are plans for a new shower block in the coming year. Straying horses caused some trouble with litter on the site.

Sandy Bay

The mining settlement caused many further problems with the drainage and stringent supervision had to be maintained to prevent nuisances occurring. This involved quite extensive works to the new septic tank outlets.

New codes were drawn up for both sites by the Northumberland County Fire Brigade with regard to siting fire-fighting points and equipment.

Lyneburn.

Some illegal parking of vans was again occurred but informal action secured their removal.

SECTION D.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1966.

New Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	60
b) By other bodies or persons	10

Closing and Demolition

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	4
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	5
3. Houses closed, not demolished	19
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	Nil

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H. Acts.

5. By informal action	Nil
6. By owners, following statutory notice	1
7. By local authority in default of owners	Nil
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

9. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	Nil
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Clearance Programme

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year	330
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IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Discretionary Grants.

No. of separate houses.

1. Applications submitted to local authority	9
2. Applications rejected	Nil
3. Applications approved	9
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£270
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme	194

Standard Grants.

During the Year Total to Date

1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made:	20	103
2. Number of houses so provided with:		
a) Bath or shower	9	74
b) Wash hand basin	9	68
c) Hot water supply	8	61
d) Water closet	18	90
e) Food store	4	36

Local Authority Houses.

1. Total number of houses owned by local authority	1428
2. Total number of inhabited houses in district	3264

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Meat Inspection.

The slaughterhouse owned by the Newbiggin Co-operative Society Ltd. continued to be the only one in operation. An inspection during the year by a Veterinary Surgeon of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food produced the comment that it was in very good condition.

The following table shows the carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:-

	Bovine excl. Calves	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	447	39	1533	460
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	-	-
Carcasses some part or organ of which was condemned	89	-	84	94
Percentage of number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	19.91	5.13	5.47	20.43
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>	-	-	-	-
Percentage of no. affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis Only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses some part or organ of which was condemned	2	-	-	-
Percentage of number affected with Cysticercosis	0.44	-	-	-

Condemnations were as follows:-

Animal Cattle:-

<u>Organ</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>	<u>Approx. weight.</u>
Head & Tongue	1	Actinobacillosis	30 lbs.
" " "	1	Actinomycosis	30 lbs.
" " "	2	C. Bovis	60 lbs.
Heart	2	"	8 lbs.
Lungs	5	Pleurisy	90 lbs.
Lungs	9	Fluke Abscesses	162 lbs.
Thick Skirt	2	C. Bovis	3 lbs.
Liver	1	Telangiectasis	12 lbs.
Liver	32	Fascioliasis	384 lbs.
Liver	9	Abscesses	108 lbs.
Part Livers	60	Fascioliasis	300 lbs.
Trimings	3	Traumatism	3 lbs.

Sheep:-

Lungs	29 prs.	Muellerius Capillaris	30 lbs.
Livers	21	Distomum Hepaticum	42 lbs.
Legs	1	Traumatism	3 lbs.

Pigs:-

<u>Organ</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>	<u>Approx. weight</u>
Lungs	85 prs.	Pneumonia	90 lbs.
Heart & Lungs	12	Pericarditis	40 lbs.
Livers	10	Ascariasis	30 lbs.
Legs	4	Arthritis	16 lbs.

Calves:-

Carcases and Offal	1	Oedema & Emaciation	36 lbs.
" " "	1	Enteritis and Cedema	34 lbs.

1511 lbs.

Other Foods.

were

The following articles of food found to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned.

One tin chopped pork	4 lbs.
One bag onions	20 lbs.
One cheese	40 lbs.
Two tins lambs liver	20 lbs.
One case Chinese rabbits	44 lbs.

Shop Inspections.

During the year 146 visits were made to premises covered by the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960. Nineteen notices have been served regarding contraventions and nine of these are still outstanding although work has started in most cases.

Food and Drugs Act 1955, Section 2.

Food not of the Nature, Substance or Quality demanded.

1. Drop scones which had an odour of fish were sold from a mobile shop. No action was taken.
2. Loaf of bread contaminated by oil. No action taken.

Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulation 1966.

These regulations, although not coming into force until 1967 have necessitated inspection of all food-carrying vehicles in the area, and close liaison work with the Public Health Inspectors in the adjoining areas.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total
Measles	-	4	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	-	5	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12

Measles.

As will be seen from the above table the number of notifications was very small.

Diphtheria.

This disease has not occurred in Newbiggin since 1950 and has caused no death during the past 19 years.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation.

In spite of the absence of diphtheria from the community, parents continue to accept immunisation for their children. This is fortunate as the disease could easily return if the level of immunity were to fall.

Separate figures are not, now, available for Newbiggin as the form of annual return has been changed and refers to the whole of the Central Area of the County, of which Newbiggin is a part.

During 1966, in the Central Area, 756 children completed a primary course of triple vaccine, which gives simultaneous protection against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus, while a further 100 completed a course of Diphtheria/Tetanus vaccine. In addition 349 children received a primary course of immunisation against Tetanus alone. These were older children who had not received this protection in infancy.

Re-inforcing injections against Diphtheria were given to 1928 children, against Whooping Cough to 720 children and against Tetanus to 1605 children.

Polionyelitis Immunisation.

This disease, fortunately, remained absent from the community during the year but, if this state of affairs is to be perpetuated, the immunisation campaign must be actively pursued. In 1966 the number of children who completed a primary course was 737, which compares unfavourably with the previous year's total of 1,154.

Poliomyelitis immunisation cont'd

As a result of the introduction of a re-inforcing dose at approximately 2 years of age, the number of children receiving a "booster" dose during the year showed an increase of 1,726, compared with 1,028 in 1965.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1966.

	New cases					Deaths				
	Resp		Non-Resp		Tot	Resp		Non-Resp		Tot
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-

Only 2 new cases of tuberculosis were notified and these were members of one family. A two-year old child developed tuberculo. meningitis some six weeks after her father had been found to have respiratory tuberculosis. Fortunately she made a good recovery.

There were no deaths from the disease.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Newbiggin Nil

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England
and Wales 0.043 per 1,000

Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in
Newbiggin Nil

Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in
England and Wales . 0.005 per 1,000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1966.

The following table shows the deaths in age-groups resulting from Malignant Neoplasms of different sites.

	Male						Female					
	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total
Brain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Mouth	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pharynx	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bronchus	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stomach	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	2
Pancreas	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colon	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Not Known	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Total	-	-	1	6	1	8	1	-	3	4	1	9

Malignant Neoplasm of the Lung and Bronchus

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea 0.202 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales 0.562 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea 1.512 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales 1.687 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea 1.714 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales 2.249 per 1,000

